

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02279

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, UR, YU, BU
SUBJ: YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL ON BREZHNEV-TITO TALKS

REFS: A. BELGRADE 7485. B. BELGRADE 7787.
C. MOSCOW 18621. D. PARIS 37796 (EXDIS)

1. HERewith, FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, WE REPORT
GIST OF SURPRISINGLY BLUNT ACCOUNT BY YUGOSLAV
POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN PARIS OF "HARDNESS" OF PRIVATE
BREZHNEV-TITO CONVERSATION DURING FORMER'S YUGOSLAV
VISIT IN NOVEMBER. COUNSELOR IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO
PRESIDIUM SECRETARY DOLANC, IS NOT CAREER DIPLOMAT,
AND HAS BEEN IN BELGRADE OVER XMAS HOLIDAYS.

2. COUNSELOR SAID BREZHNEV SURPRISED EVEN TITO WITH
"BLUNTNESS OF HIS DEMANDS." THESE WERE AIMED VARIOUS
WAYS AT CLOSER YUGOSLAV ASSOCIATION WITH MOSCOW AND
THE WARSAW PACT, BUT FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON EXPLICIT
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BREZHNEV REQUEST THAT YUGOSLAVS "FACILITATE" STATION-
ING OF NAVAL SHIPS IN THEIR ADRIATIC HARBORS DURING
PERIODS OF NEED. COUNSELOR SAID TITO HAD TO TELL
BREZHNEV "VERY CLEARLY" THAT YUGOSLAV LAWS CONCERNING
FOREIGN SHIPS APPLIED TO ALL COUNTRIES EQUALLY AND,
IN WHAT COUNSELOR SAID WAS "HEATED EXCHANGE," SHARPLY
REASSERTED PRINCIPLE OF GOY NON-ALIGNMENT.

3. ASKED IF BREZHNEV THEN ACCEPTED TITO'S RESPONSE, COUNSELOR SAID NO, THAT "NOTHING HAD BEEN SETTLED." SOVIETS HAD ONLY BEEN PUT ON GUARD ONCE AGAIN IN, THIS SOURCE REPEATED INSISTENTLY, "MOST DIFFICULT PRIVATE EXCHANGE" FOR MANY YEARS.

4. COMMENT: THIS ACCOUNT IS REMARKABLY CLOSE TO VERSION OF MEETING BY HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH SOURCE CITED REFTEL D. WHETHER YUGOSLAVS ARE NOW OFFERING INSIDE STORY TO BROADER AUDIENCE BECAUSE THEY TOO ARE DISTURBED BY APPARENT HARDENING OF VARIETY POSITIONS IN WARSAW PACT CAMP (BESIDES INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE TACTICS SOURCE ALSO REFERRED TO ALLEGED MILITARY BUILD-UP IN BULGARIA), OR, WHETHER ABOVE IS ONLY PERSONAL INDISCRETION IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO JUDGE.
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Message Attributes

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